

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus for a downhole whirling mass orbital vibrator  
2     generating vibration in a borehole, which apparatus comprises:

3                     a gerotor with an inner gear rotated by a shaft having one less lobe than an outer gear;  
4                     a whirling mass attached to said shaft;  
5                     at least one bearing attached to said shaft engaging at least one sleeve; and  
6                     means to rotate said inner gear, said mass, and said bearing in a selected rotational  
7     direction to cause said mass, said inner gear and said bearing to backwards whirl in an opposite  
8     rotational direction.

1           2.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said bearing is a track  
2     roller bearing.

1           3.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 including a pair of bearings  
2     attached to said shaft engaging a pair of sleeves.

1           4.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said pair of bearings  
2     and said pair of sleeves are replaceable.

1           5.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said bearings are on  
2     opposite ends of said whirling mass.

1           6.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said means to rotate  
2     said inner gear, said mass, and said bearing in a selected rotational direction includes a drive shaft  
3     with a plurality of U-joints.

1           7.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 including a fluid pump  
2     powered by said shaft providing a self-contained drip lubrication system.

1           8.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 7 including a pair of U-joint  
2     assemblies.

1           9.     A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 including a pair of said  
2     gerotors spaced from each other and coaxially aligned.

1           10.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said backwards  
2     whirling mass is an elongated cylinder.

1           11.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said backwards  
2     whirling mass produces vibration energy which is used in enhanced fluid recovery.

1           12.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said backwards  
2     whirling mass produces vibration energy which is used as a seismic source.

1           13.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said backwards  
2           whirling mass is an elongated cylindrical configuration with a diameter less than said housing.

1           14.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said inner gear  
2           backwards whirl at a speed defined by a factor

$$K = \frac{n}{N-n} \quad \text{where } n = \text{number of lobes on inner rotor and} \\ N = \text{number of lobes on outer rotor}$$

1           15.    A method to generate vibrational energy in a borehole, which method comprises:  
2                    rotating an inner gear of a gerotor by a shaft in a selected rotational direction wherein  
3           said inner gear has one less lobe than an outer gear;  
4                    rotating a whirling mass in a selected rotational direction by rotation of said shaft so  
5           that said mass and said inner gear backwards whirl in a direction opposite to said selected rotational  
6           direction; and  
7                    transmitting centrifugal force created by said whirling mass from at least one bearing  
8           to at least one cylindrical sleeve by contacting said sleeve.

1           16.    A method to generate vibrational energy in a borehole as set forth in Claim 15  
2           including transmitting said centrifugal force to a downhole casing.

1           17.    A method to generate vibrational energy in a borehole as set forth in Claim 15  
2           wherein said centrifugal force generates vibrational energy.

1           18.    A method to generate vibrational energy in a borehole as set forth in Claim 15  
2   including contacting a sleeve with at least one bearing rotated by said shaft.

1           19.    A method to generate vibrational energy in a borehole as set forth in Claim 15  
2   including transmitting said centrifugal force from said sleeve to slips and to a casing.

1           20.    A gerotor and bearing apparatus for a downhole whirling mass orbital vibrator  
2   generating vibration in a borehole, which apparatus comprises:  
3                a pair of gerotors spaced from each other, each gerotor with an inner gear rotated by  
4   a shaft having one less lobe than an outer gear;  
5                a whirling mass attached to said shaft;  
6                a pair of bearings attached to said shaft on opposite ends of said whirling mass;  
7                means to rotate said inner gears, said mass, and said bearings in a selected rotational  
8   direction to cause said gears, said mass, and said bearings to backwards whirl in an opposite  
9   rotational direction; and  
10              means to maintain angular radial position and angular alignment between said ends  
11   of said rotating mass.